

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. An apparatus comprising

a timer circuit; and

an indicator device which communicates with the timer circuit;

wherein the indicator device can be placed in a first or second state by an operator;

wherein in the first state the indicator device provides a first visual indication of a first type of beverage within a beverage receptacle;

wherein in the second state the indicator device provides a second visual indication of a second type of beverage within the beverage receptacle, wherein the second type of beverage differs from the first type of beverage;

and wherein the timer circuit can be programmed to automatically change the indicator device after a certain period of time from the first or second state to a third state, wherein in the third state, the indicator device no longer provides a visual indication of what type of beverage is within the beverage receptacle.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein

the first type of beverage is non-decaffeinated coffee; and

the second type of beverage is decaffeinated coffee.

3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein

the timer circuit and the indicator device can be attached or detached from a coffee machine.

4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein

the first visual indication is a designation of the first type of beverage and is comprised of least one alphanumeric character; and

the second visual indication is a designation of the second type of beverage and is comprised of at least one alphanumeric character.

5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein

the beverage receptacle is a coffee pot.

6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein

the first type of beverage is decaffeinated coffee; and

the second type of beverage is non decaffeinated coffee.

7. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein

the indicator device comprises

a first light under a first designation which indicates decaffeinated coffee; and

a second light under a second designation which indicates non decaffeinated coffee;

8. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein

the first light is part of a first push button which can be pushed in to light the first light to indicate that decaffeinated coffee has been made; and

the second light is part of a second push button which can be pushed in to light the

second light to indicate that non decaffeinated coffee has been made.

9. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein

the indicator device comprises

a first light which is able to emit either a first or a second color light;

and wherein the first light emits the first color light when the coffee machine has made decaffeinated coffee and the first light emits the second color light when the coffee machine has made non decaffeinated coffee.

10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein

the first light is part of a first push button which can be pushed in to light the first light and to toggle the first light from emitting a first color light to emitting a second color light.

11. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein

the indicator device includes an electronic digital display which displays whether coffee which has been made by the coffee machine is non decaffeinated or decaffeinated.

12. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein

the indicator device includes a first push button which when pushed in causes the electronic digital display to toggle from displaying an indication that the coffee is decaffeinated to displaying an indication that the coffee is non decaffeinated.

13. The apparatus of claim 2 further comprising

the coffee machine which includes a spigot through which coffee can flow;

and wherein the coffee machine includes a spigot switch for allowing coffee to flow from the coffee machine through the spigot.

14. A method comprising the steps of

fixing an indicator device and a timer circuit on a coffee machine;

wherein the indicator device can be placed into a first state or a second state by an operator;

wherein when the indicator device is placed in a first state the indicator device provides a first visual indication of a first type of beverage which is within a coffee receptacle;

wherein when the display device is placed in a second state the indicator device provides a second visual indication of a second type of beverage which is within the coffee receptacle; and

wherein the first and second type of beverages differ and the first and second visual indications differ;

and wherein the timer circuit, after a certain period of time, causes the indicator device to automatically change from the first or second state to a third state in which the indicator device does not indicate what type of beverage is within the coffee receptacle.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein

the first type of beverage is decaffeinated coffee; and

the second type of beverage is non decaffeinated coffee.

16. The method of claim 14 wherein

the first visual indication is a designation of the first type of beverage and is comprised of least one alphanumeric character; and

the second visual indication is a designation of the second type of beverage and is comprised of at least one alphanumeric character.